

Remarks

Claims 1-30 and 39-42 were pending in the subject application. By way of this amendment, claims 1 and 42 have been amended, and claims 39-41 have been canceled. The undersigned avers that no new matter is introduced by this amendment. Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1-30 and 42 are currently pending in the subject application. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 24-30, and 39-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blyler, Jr *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,018), either alone, or further in view of Blyler, Jr. *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,254,808). The applicants respectfully traverse this grounds for rejection. In accordance with the telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on April 12, 2006, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 39-41, as suggested by the Examiner to put the claims in condition for the allowance. Claim 42 has been amended to depend from claim 1 as claim 39 has been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 24-30, and 42 depend from claim 1, and claims 39-41 have been canceled. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 24-30, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 2, 4-8, and 11-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blyler, Jr. *et al.* in view of Koike *et al.*, either alone, or further in view of Blyler, Jr., *et al.* ('808), for the reasons of record as set forth in paragraph 3 of the previous action. The applicants respectfully traverse this grounds for rejection. As discussed above, claim 1 as been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to put the claims in condition for allowance. As claims 2, 4-8, and 11-23 depend from claim 1, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4-8, and 11-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment above, the applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

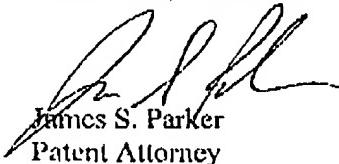
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

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Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this response, or if the Examiner believes there remains any valid ground upon which any claim in this application may be rejected subsequent to entrance of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Petition and Fee for Extension of Time